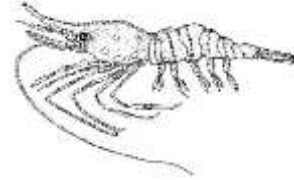


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL SHRIMP POT FISHERY
COPPER BAY CLOSURE
EMERGENCY ORDER 2-SF-E-04-12**

Copper Bay, a small bay located on the west side of Knight Island has sustained a relatively high proportion of the Prince William Sound (PWS) shrimp pot fishery harvest to date. The department is closing those waters of Copper Bay east of a line at 147° 53.76' W effective 12:00 noon June 14 in order to distribute effort across the area open to commercial shrimp fishing with pot gear (Figure 1).

Harvests from Copper Bay and adjacent waters of statistical area 476005 currently total approximately 5,279 lb. Although overall effort has remained low, harvest data indicate declines in commercial catch per unit of effort in this portion of the open area.

The 2012 Prince William Sound (PWS) shrimp pot season opened at 8:00 a.m. April 15 with a guideline harvest level (GHL) of 51,240 pounds of whole shrimp. Reports through June 6 indicate a total harvest of approximately 16,173 pounds of shrimp from 82 landings by 30 vessels. Effort is currently low, with four vessels participating. The department monitors the fishery through harvest reports, logbooks from each landing, and fish tickets.

The department will continue to manage the fishery inseason to distribute effort and harvest throughout the area open to commercial shrimp fishing with pot gear. Fishery announcements regarding adjustments will be available on the harvest reporting message line at (907) 424-7215.

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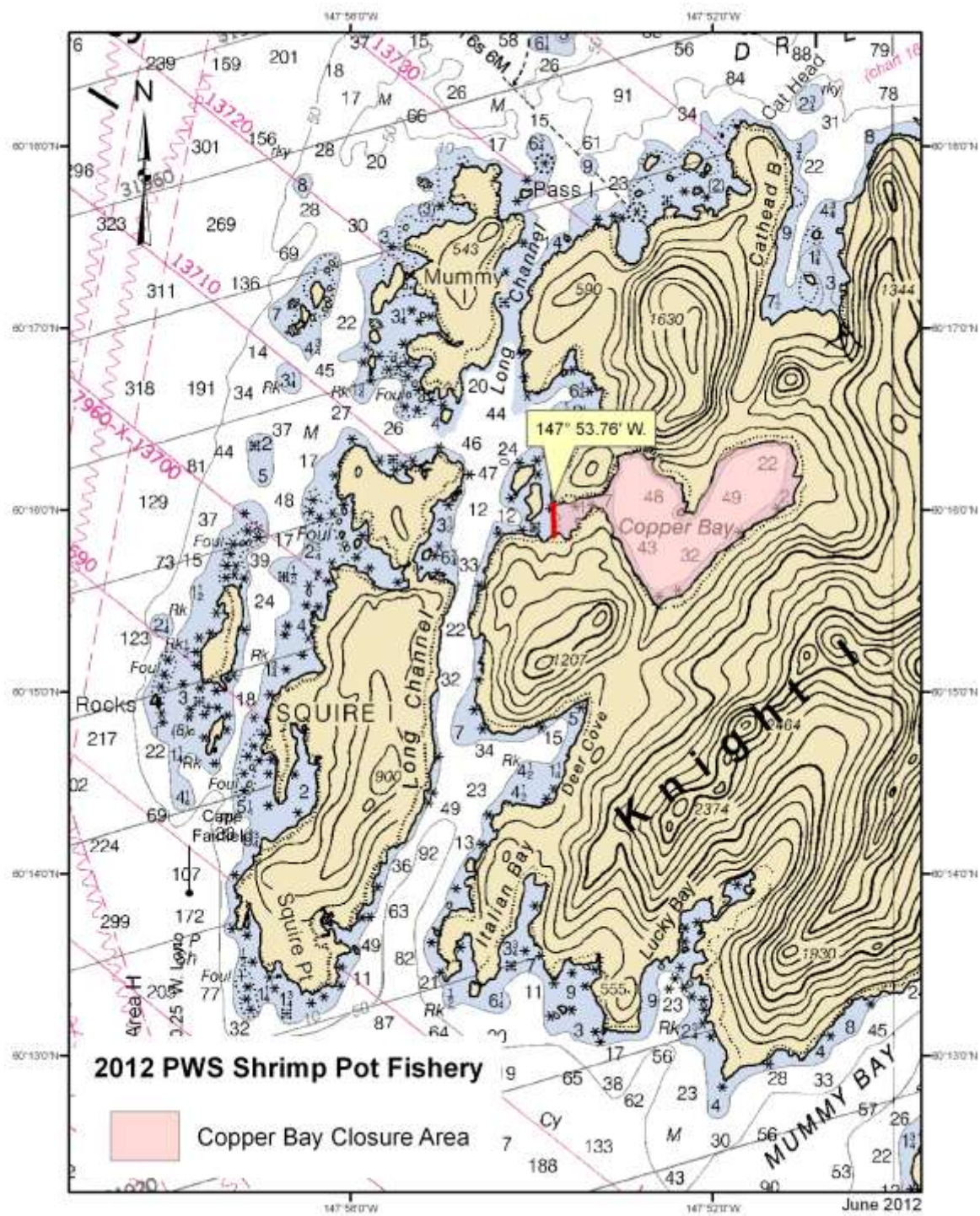


Figure 1. Map depicting the Copper Bay closure area.

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